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A Symbol for the Times

By: JON HALBERG, Gazette Staff Writer October 01, 2001

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Elderton man one of college students who created image

An image designed by a trio of Penn State students, one from Elderton, is bringing a message of peace to New York City and spreading fast.

"No one knows how many T-shirts and posters there are now" featuring the design, said Brian McCall of Elderton. "We want to spread the image as far as we can."

The graphic design is a replica of the Manhattan skyline. Where the river runs, red and white stripes flow, and where the twin towers of the World Trade Center once stood, two fingers form a peace sign.

The wording is simple: "We Will Resurrect Peace."

McCall said he, along with graphic-design classmates Thom Klimek of Northern Cambria and Mark Elias of Berwyn, were shocked like everyone else in the wake of the terrorist attack Sept. 11 on the World Trade Center. But the three wanted to do what they could to help.

"The Tuesday of the incident - that evening - we started on the design," McCall said.

Printing up a few hundred T-shirts, posters and postcards with money from their own pockets, they headed for Manhattan the following weekend and began to give the items away.

"We spent Monday distributing everything we had in Union Square and Washington Square," Elias said. "They went so fast, we could have given them all away in 15 minutes."



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The parks in lower Manhattan have become the sites of homemade memorials to victims, as well as places for survivors to gather.

"That's what it's all about," McCall said. "We're graphic designers. We're trying to use our designs to help others."

McCall, who was an Indiana Gazette carrier in Elderton as a youth, has always been quick to do the right thing, said his mom.

"My husband and I are very proud of Brian," said Rosemarie McCall. "He's always been a go-getter and very compassionate."

The proud mom talked about her son's volunteer work with the Kittanning Literacy Project and creation of a 45-foot mural on the Elderton Junior-Senior High School.

When the terrorist attacks happened, "they were devastated," Rosemarie McCall said. "They weren't doctors or nurses, but they wanted to use their gifts to help."

READER POLL

What should be done with the Pledge of Allegiance and the phrase "under God?"

E-mail us with your comments.

- Leave it as it is**
- Remove the phrase, but keep the pledge**
- Leave the phrase in, but make the pledge optional**
- If the phrase remains, remove the pledge from public schools**

After the initial press run, the students have gotten help printing more T-shirts and posters from a State College real-estate agent, The Salvation Army and others.

In addition to gracing the streets of New York, the image was used in State College's American Pride Parade Sept. 22 and in rallies on the campus.

Items featuring the image are being sold to raise money for the World Trade Center victims relief fund, along with helping The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross, according to the designers. They say they won't keep any profits from the sales.

Although the design is copyrighted, the students are giving it away. They hope that those who use it will donate proceeds to the relief efforts for the victims.

"We've pretty much said, if you want the image, it's yours," McCall said.

However, they are looking for sponsors to help print more of the T-shirts, said Rosemarie McCall. "They'd like to raise more money for the victims," she said.

(On the Net: www.nine-eleven.org)

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